

Village of Hiram
Finance/Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2024

- Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Szell called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.
- Committee Members Present:** Chris Szell, Chairman
Anne Haynam, Mayor
Beth Greenwood, Councilperson
Justin Bisutti, Councilperson
- Committee Members Absent:** David Smith, Councilperson
Susan Skrovan-DeYoung, Fiscal Officer
- Hiram Officials Present:** Brian Gregory, Police Chief
Bill Byers, Fire Chief
Steven Schuller, Village Administrator
Jennifer Kangas Berendt, Solicitor
- Recorder:** Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer
- Others:** Dave Dreimiller, Website Committee member
Madison Palm, Hiram College student
- Minutes:** A motion to approve the proposed minutes of the meeting 2/27/2024 meeting as presented was made by Mayor Haynam and seconded by Mrs. Greenwood. Motion passed with Mr. Bisutti abstaining.
- Agenda:** A motion to approve the proposed agenda as presented was made by Mayor Haynam and seconded by Mrs. Greenwood. Motion passed unanimously.
- Guests/Public:** Chairman Chris Szell asked the guest if she had any comments. She asked if any new action had been taken regarding the paid parking program. Chief Gregory replied there was nothing new to report at present.

Department Updates:

Police Department: Police Chief Brian Gregory reported that he has had a conversation with Mr. Elkins regarding delivery of the speed cameras. The cameras have arrived and will be delivered when training is scheduled. The Chief stated that the 30 day warning period has been held up due to a hold up with the program in the courts. Mr. Szell asked what the “over the limit” mph will be set at. Chief Gregory stated where the speed limit is posted as 25 mph the miles over will be 11 mph over before a vehicle is considered to be speeding and where the limit is posted at 35 mph the miles over will be 6 mph. This is common in most municipalities.

The Attorney General's office has agreed to collect debt owed on delinquent parking tickets for the village. The minimum amount outstanding must be no less than \$100. A 10% fee will be charged for collection.

The annual pancake breakfast takes place at the Hiram College Kennedy Center 9-1:00pm, Saturday, March 30th. This is a major fundraiser for the Shop with a Cop program.

April 8th. Hayden – Dean will be closed at Gerstacker Hall for the solar eclipse.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Bill Byers reported VASU will be giving him a second opinion of the tornado siren. The Chief asked that the siren remain off until VASU has checked it over, that will occur on Friday, March 29th. The Chief stated that the siren going off by itself was most likely a fluke. He related that Aurora had a similar incident some years ago as the result of a heavy wind storm. If the siren is found to be in need of repair after VASU's service call Steve will post an alert Friday to inform residents the siren is down for repairs.

Village Adm/Utilities:

The college has requested the street and sidewalks be closed on April 3rd. a crain will be hoisting a cooler unit to the roof of Gerstacker.

Composting leaves – The EPA has told Steve the village cannot compost Leaves at the water plant area as we have done in the past due to the close proximity to the well heads. We can however give the leaves to area farms as long as the farms do not allow the leaves to pile up and compost, they must be spread. Hiram Farm and Ellenberger's will take the leaves.

The question has been asked by a past Hiram village resident if cemetery plots can be purchased at the resident rate even though this resident has moved out of the area. The consensus was no. To allow this would violate the village's codified ordinances.

March 8th a driver hit a pot hole on State Route 82 within village limits. There was damage done to the car. According to the existing agreement with ODOT, filling pot holes on the state routes within the village limit is the village's responsibility. The cost of the repairs to the vehicle are \$789.54. Officer Yoder responded to the accident and can verify the damage to the vehicle. Discussion followed.

Motion to pay the \$789.54 was made by Mrs. Greenwood and seconded by Mayor Haynam. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Mr. Schuller reported on the driveway storm drain project. Crosswalk striping and 'blue zones' for crosswalk clearance were discussed.

Light plant – The title search has revealed 2 easements, one being the latest the village obtained, the other dates back to the 1950's. There is nothing regarding Ohio Edison in the records.

ABM has asked if the village can repair a storm drain on Terrier Drive. They are willing to enter into a service agreement to have that and possibly additional work done by our service department. Discussion followed regarding a master service agreement and if the village can actually enter into such an agreement. The solicitor will research this. Mrs. Greenwood is willing to share a master service agreement template that her employer uses.

Mayor:

Mayor Haynam reported on discussions with an individual working in the financial realm over concerns regarding Middlefield Bank. Discussion followed. The mayor feels the village needs to look at other banking options.

Fiscal Officer:

Susan is in Columbus at the annual state fiscal training. Wendelin made available information regarding the Anthem health insurance renewal which happens in May. A letter from the Ohio Municipal Joint Self-Insurance Pool was also distributed which included an invoice for \$34,760.00. Discussion regarding the OMJSP letter followed. Wendelin will find the current agreement and forward that to the committee members. Information and contract for the Public Entities Pool of Ohio was distributed for review. Mrs. Berendt will review and report back to the committee. Quotes from PEP and Ohio Plan were discussed.

Motion for the Finance Committee to direct the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Public Entities Pool of Ohio before the deadline of April 1, 2024 was made by Mrs. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Bisutti. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Bills List:

Bills list was reviewed. A Motion to pay the bills was made by Mayor Haynam and seconded by Mrs. Greenwood. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

New Business:

a. **Interested earned:** Currently our account is earning 5.1% with Middlefield Bank. Star Ohio is giving 5.6%. The committee would like Susan to reachout to both entities for more information. Do they tier the interest rate according to amount deposited, etc. The committee would like to have a representatives from Middlefield Bank and Star Ohio come to a meeting.

b. **OMJSP:** The committee would like Susan to reachout to the Ohio Municipal Joint Self-Insurance Pool.

c. **Retaining Personnel:** Mayor Haynam led a discussion on how to best retain personnel especially in the police department.

d. **Pending Litigation:** Mrs. Berendt will report on the pending case as soon as she has more information

Unfinished Business:

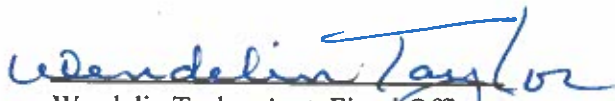
None.

The next Finance/Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Haynam and seconded by Mr. Szell. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Attest:


Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer


Chris Szell, Finance Chairman